The Indian Poultry Gazette.

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EDITORIAL NEWS.

With this issue we are making our debut as Editor of the Indian Poultry Gazette and we feel we must ask member's indulgence for the first month or so bearing in mind the fact that X'mas, with its usual festive rush so closely followed by the New Year and our annual All India Poultry Exhibition is now upon us.

To our immediate predecessor Mr. W. E. J. Yule it is the duty of the Club to accord him the warmest thanks and appreciation for what he has done for us during his term off office as Honorary Secretary of our Club.

All know the uphill fight he has had and none better than his successor, who, though we always kept in touch with him in all things poultry, and had the great pleasure of spending our hot weather vacation at his Darjeeling residence this year where we were ever on the lookout for guidance and knowledge, never realised fully until it finally came upon us to edit our first Gazette what we had let ourself in for when some months ago a new Editor was necessary and like the blushing bride we coyly answered 'I Will'.

On behalf of the Club and readers of the Gazette we thank you Mr. Yule for the excellent work you have done for us all and we trust members will rally round you and help to make the All India Show the great success you are aiming at.

With our first issue we are going to be brief and to the point.

Members were told last month and have been reminded of it off and on that the Club and Gazette is not getting the support it should get.

If things go on for one more year as they have this year—admitting the present state of affairs is responsible in a small way—there will be no Club and no Gazette, for no Club and no Gazette can carry on without funds.

The cost of production of the Gazette has been far above the receipts and the same state of affairs applies to the Club.

Membership subscriptions do not cover expenses and had it not have been for the splendid effort on the part of Mr. Yule in publishing our first Year Book from which a small profit was made both the Club and Gazette would have been showing a loss on the year of over Rs. 200.

We therefore ask our members if you have the good of the Club at heart to help us all you can. Don't wait for the other man first for he is waiting for you and that has been our trouble for many years now.

The best way you can help your Club is to introduce your poultry loving friends to join us, for every new member helps us to do a little more for the advancement of better class poultry breeding in India.

It is hatefull to us to have to appeal for donations to enable us to carry on but that is what

things are coming to if members will not support us more without our having to keep on reminding them.

We are informed by the Honorary Show Secretary that the All India dates are put back one day and will be **4th and 5th January** instead of 3rd and 4th as announced and as we have been asked to judge at this event we trust we shall have the great pleasure of meeting many of our old friends at Eden Gardens and also of making the acquaintance of many new ones.

Information has reached us that the United Provinces Poultry Association will be showing some of their best, but regret to learn that Mr. Slater will not be competing with the Etah Mission Farm stock. He however intends to send down a number of his birds for display and subsequent sale and we can assure our members that if they are on the lookout for new blood in their yards that the Etah Mission Farm will without doubt have the goods to deliver.

There is evidence of a bumper All India by all accounts and we trust members and intending exhibitors did not let the closing day (15th December) for all their entries slip by without doing the needful.

Up till the time of going to press we have nothing definite to print in the matter of the provincial show but hope to be able to make an announcement in the next issue.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will take place during the Poultry Exhibition. Time will be notified on the show grounds. Any member who has any resolution to bring forward is requested to send same direct to Mr. Yule before the 2nd January.

As we go to press we are informed that there is a great movement on foot to have the Gazette published in Bengali. This is surely a move in the right direction. We cannot hope to make headway without the co-operation of the people of the country. If only we can help the poorer classes by teaching them our methods of making poultry pay, we shall be doing something. Further announcements of this will appear in our next issue.

To all our readers we wish a prosperous New Year and may 1931 smile upon your poultry yards, record hatches and no chicken pox.

TO BREED STRONG CHICKENS.

By " Wayfarer."

You need strength to start with, that is, th chickens must come of strong parents capable o giving their chicks a good grasp of life to star with. This does not mean size or bodily muscula power, it means that the sound constitution of th two parents has been transmitted to the childre All parents though quite strong themselves, do no have children with sound constitutions, you hav only to look round you at the neighbours at Mr. anc Mrs. so and so, who are strong, robust people, ye their children are far from robust and are a source of constant fear to their parents. That is what I mean by an inherited strength or weakness of constitution. It's a gift and a precious gift. As human beings are, so in the same way are chickens gifted or ortherwise from their parents with a strong or a weak constitution. The right parents amongst fowls are spoken of as transmitting their constitutional vigor to their decendents. This transmitted vigor will do much for the chick in after life, if it be fostered, and one of the best ways to foster it is to feed well.

I emphatically do not mean to feed with lazy kindness, for that is the sort of kindness that over feeds one day and starves the next, and the slovenly given out of food is greatly surprised and deeply annoyed when some one down the road has chicks of the same strain and age that are big and fine, while theirs are either small, badly shaped or are dead. There is the owner who, getting sound strong chicks from the eggs, feeds often enough, but does not give enough variety. I knew a man who hatched out some game chicks, well bred ones too, kept them under a small split bomboo tapa, and fed them on broken polished rice. They died miserably, poor things, and only when the last one was at the last gasp did he ask me from what mysterious disease they had died, he being of opinion they lacked constitution. He was quite angry when I said they died of starvation pure and simple. He had given a good price for these eggs too and just

(See on next page)

PRACTICAL ADVICE TO THE POULTRY-KEEPER.

Feeding the Growing Chickens.

A few more hints may be given about the feeding of chickens to supplement the advice that has already been given, and to convey to beginners a better idea of their responsibilities.

It has already been stated that hard-boiled egg is unsuitable as food for young chickens, while breadcrumbs soaked in milk are not the most suitable food at this stage.

A good first food can be prepared by scalding pinhead oatmeal and dusting it with Sussex-ground oats. This can be given alternately with dry chick-grain for the first few days.

The little-and-often plan of feeding should be adopted for chickens when wet mash and grain are given. When dry mash feeding is adopted a trough or hopper of dry mash can be left before the chicks all dry.

Biscuit-meal is an excellent material for making the body of the wet mash for growing chicks, and there is no more suitable meal for drying it off than Sussex-ground oats.

At the same time it must be agreed that excellent results have been attained by feeding chickens entirely on dry mash, with or without small grain; and this method certainly saves a lot of labour.

(See on next page).

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for a bit of want of looking up the subject he had lost his chicks and his money.

There is the owner who feeds alright in quantity and quality, until the chicks leave their mother; up to then they expand and grow; but having left their mother and grown a bit wild, as chicks always do, they are less seen and get mixed with the grown fowls and the owner who afore time was so proud of them loses interest in them, and what were, a really promising lot of chicks, go back, *i.e.*, do not develop as they should, and all for the want of a little supervision and extra feeding by themselves. This last is a thing that often happens; but its just at this period of their lives that chickens need the most care and nourishing food for they are bearing a severe constitutional strain growing bone, muscle, and their own clothing as well.

These are some of the things which sap constitutional vigor. A good constitution will enable a chicken to encounter many ills, but there is a breaking strain to the strongest rope, and unless vigor be conserved and helped it will give out. This giving out may not end in death, but it will most certainly end in the chickens not being what they should have been in size, beauty, or egg laying ability, had just that we bit of extra care been lavished upon them.

Too often the breeder of the fowls is blamed, everything in the world is blamed, and loudly too. The breeder that his expensive eggs produce weak or stunted birds. If you buy the best eggs for hatching and expend good money you might as well get value, and the surest way to get it is to help the chicks forward to maturity. Its a great source of after heart burning when the weakened chickens have grown to maturity and the hens don't lay well, and if their eggs are set the chickens hatched are weakly and sometimes deformed and never what they should be. They are unfit and will never do any good, care for them as you will, no one ever bred a line of first class layers from unfit parentage, for the very first requirement for a first class layer is a powerful constitution to stand the strain.

This is why the first class breeders always state that they can guarantee the stamina of their fowls, for their breeding stock is selected carefully, because stamina means three parts of the battle of life. So when you hatch out a first class lot see to it that from birth to maturity they are kept fit, for by so doing you will be confering a benefit upon yourself, your chickens and upon the orginal breeder, by raising a sound strong perfectly fit lot of fowls that will be worth bragging about.

TIME OF HATCHING.

One of the tendencies of recent years has been to advance the period of hatching. There is abundant evidence that, on the whole, birds which are brought out soon after the beginning of the year are more valuable for winter egg production than those which are hatched at the normal season. At the same time, however, there are many who find that the March and April-hatched birds commence to lay equally as early in the autumn as those which have been brought out several weeks in advance. This suggests that there are two influences at work which have never been taken into accounts. First, the methods of rearing adopted; and second, the environment. With regard to the former there is no doubt whatever but that rate of growth and functional activity can be expedited by rearing and feeding. It may therefore be that with the adoption of improved methods there is no actual need for hatching very early, except, of course, in the case of table chickens which are to be killed. With respect to the second consideration—that of environment—this has not been studied to any great extent. It is well known, however, that in some areas growth is much more rapid than in others, in which connection the nature of the soil would appear to be of great importance.

The main reason for this note is to suggest that we have not to consider merely the effect upon the immediate generation, but upon those which follow. Nature has always the last word in everything, and although we can modify to some extent, yet still if that is carried too far then a penalty has to be paid. So far as I am aware the question has never been carefully considered as to whether either very early or very late hatching, continuously adopted through successive generations, has any influence in bringing about loss of virility. It would be foolish in the extreme to attribute to such a system the reduction in vigor which is often manifested amongst domestic poultry. Probably, as stated before, this is due to a multiplicity of causes, and it would be a great mistake to attribute it to any one. Personally I do not think that hatching early or late has the same evil effects, provided the parent stock is kept on range and the chickens are hatched in a natural manner, but with the adoption of artificial methods, inseparable from modern conditions, any tendency in the direction indicated is emphasised.

(Continued from previous page).

Sloppy mash should never be given to chickens, especially during the first month; and if wet mash is given it should be mixed and kneaded with dry meal into a crumbly consistency.

An excellent plan for those who have to adopt dry mash feeding to save labour is to give one feed of crumbly wet mash every day, made up of scalded biscuit-meal and meal, as suggested above.

Green food is necessary for chickens in confinement, but those which are running on grass range will find all the green food they require during the next few weeks, while the young grass is growing.

Young onion tops, finely chopped, are excellent for chickens, and if these are not obtainable the young leaves of perpetual kale and other green crops are quite suitable.

Although dry food may be left in hoppers all day, this does not apply to wet mash, which must always be mixed fresh for each meal. And no food should be left in a trough or hopper overnight.

When chickens are reared on free range, and are strong enough to run about, they will find a lot of natural food at this time of the year, which means a considerable saving in the food bill.

Chickens that are reared in confinement necessarily miss this natural food, and some substitute must be provided to supply a suitable proportion of proteid elements in the diet.

Those who are rearing only a few chickens may chop up a little cooked lean meat; but in rearing larger broods it is necessary to resort to a substitute, such as meat and bone-meal.

Clean water must always be available for chickens, and it should be kept in fountains from which the birds can drink without fouling the supply.

If a few flakes of block camphor are put into a quart of drinking water it will be found an effective preventive of gapes; the same may be said of a daily supply of young onion tops.

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WHAT EXERCISE DOES.

Recently I came across a reference to the birds of New Zealand, in which it was shown that by reason of the abundance of food in those islands, and that climatically there was no need for migration in search of nutrition from one district to another, there had been a distinct loss of wing power in the wild birds. It may be explained that this was following upon the settlement of the country, so that in the districts where farms are being well cultivated there is an abundance of food. What is here stated is equally true with regard to domesticated animals and birds, and is an important factor in connection with poultry. We know that in some of the heavier races, such as the Cochin and the Brahma, there has been a reduction in the wing power as these birds are not called upon to fly. The result is seen that in the two breeds named is a loss of productivity so far as eggs are concerned, although there has been an increase in the size of bone and of body. May it not be true that, in view of the systems which are now in vogue—namely, of keeping the stock under conditions where there is very little demand upon their physical powers of motion, whether in the leg or wing muscles—it may have a very important influence, and that in process of time it will lead to modifications which are not altogether to the good? There is a further consideration in this direction. There may be little doubt about it that execise of the body tends to a more economic consumption of food, and helps to keep the various muscles and organs in healthy and vigorous condition. It is perfectly true that by selective breeding and by food a stimulus may be given to some of the functions, notably that of egg laying. There is, however, a danger in doing this; we forget that so far as breeding stock are concerned—and it is very difficult indeed to divide the breeding from, say, the laying stock—there may be an accumulation of losses, small in any one generation, but which will ultimately bring about a declension. Here is one more case that dogmatism would be foolish in the extreme, and we can do nothing more than make a suggestion to be considered by those who are intimately concerned.

KEEPING POULTRY SUCCESSFULLY ON THE INTENSIVE SYSTEM.

By Chas. Howarth.

A Mash for Intensivists: A Higher Percentage of Fibre
A Safe Mash: Soya Bean Meal: Separated Milk.

There is a general impression that the feeding of poultry kept on the intensive system should practically be the same as that for fowls raised on any other system. This is not correct, despite the fact that the intensively kept birds are being given a proved balanced ration. A balanced ration for the intensivist must consist of something more than the correct proportion of proteins, carbohydrates, fat, and fibre. The majority of poultry-men keep poultry for egg production, and there is nothing more pleasing to the enthusiast than a really good orange-coloured yolk. A mixture of thirds, bran, Indian-meal, Sussex-ground oats and meat and bone can make a perfect balanced ration, but it does not necessarily follow that it is the best for the intensivist.

A laying mash I have had excellent results with as regards egg production is composed of 3 parts thirds, 3 Indian-meal (yellow), 1 bran, 1 alfalfa, 1 meat and bone, 4 per cent. minerals, 1 per cent. cod-liver-oil. Grain feed: 2 split maize, 1 oats, fed separately. The yolk colour has been quite fair and the birds have kept in good health. Up to 12 months ago no whole oats were given; and practically speaking the birds had no other grain but spilt yellow maize. The mash then had the addition of one part Sussex-ground oats.

This mash is quite a good one for the intensivist. There is nothing original in it, and practically 50 per cent. of it is composed of millers' offals, that is thirds and bran. This is quite the usual practice. Whether such a high proportion of thirds and bran is advantageous is open to question.

Ten per cent. of meat and bone, or fish-meal, has been recommended so consistently for years, that it seems almost impudent to recommend any increase. Five per cent. to 10 per cent. alfalfa again has been the recommendation. I really think for

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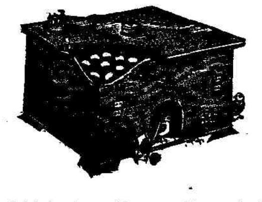

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13.

the intensivist it is quite safe to make the meat and bone or fish-meal up to 15 per cent., and also to increase the alfalfa-meal to 15 per cent. In increasing the alfalfa-meal to 15 per cent. we are also increasing the percentage of fibre, and alfalfa-meal contains a very high proportion of fibre. It is quite in order to feed intensive birds on a higher percentage of fibre, as they cannot have access to the green young shoots which the free range birds enjoy. Although these young shoots do not contain a great amount of fibre, the quantity eaten in a long spring day must be prodigious. By increasing the amount of animal food and greenstuff we are imitating nature at her best, and also at the same time decreasing the cost of the mash.

The alfalfa-meal is bulky and dusty, so that it is necessary to select for the other constituents of the mash cereals which are low in fibre, heavy in weight, and palatable. Maize is the cereal with the least fibre content, the heaviest in weight, and very palatable; it also has a high oil content which helps in absorbing the dustiness of the alfalfa. Maize, unfortunately, has a low mineral content, which, by the way, is more than balanced by the alfalfa and the bone in the animal food. The protein content also of maize is poor both in quality and quantity; again this is more than balanced by the extra percentage of alfalfa and animal food—further they are the right quality. Maize also gives a very nice coloured yolk, and is also a fertile source of vitamin A.

To balance the 15 per cent. of protein food and 15 per cent. of alfalfa-meal, 50 per cent. of yellow maize-meal is necessary. Five per cent. of bran is added to work in the 1 per cent. of medicinal cod-liver-oil and 15 per cent. of thirds. This makes up the 100 per cent. of meals, but thoroughly incorporated into this mixture is also 2 lbs. steamed bone-flour, 1 lb. limestone-flour, and 1 lb. salt. The grain given with this mash is 2 oats and 1 split yellow maize, separately. The mash costs rather more per cwt. than the usual follow-the-crowd mash, but it is certainly more concentrated and less is eaten and required. As yet it is quite in the experimental stage and is not recommended to be used indiscriminately.

For the man who wants a safe mash the 3 parts thirds, 3 Indian-meal, 1 bran, 1 alfalfa, 1 meat and bone or fish-meal, 3 per cent. minerals and 1 per cent. C. L. O. is recommended; it is fairly cheap in price and has stood the test of time. When the experimental mash was first made up, only 10 per cent. meat and bone was used, plus 5 per cent. soya bean-meal. This was discontinued and 15 per cent. meat and bone or fish-meal, or even $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. meat and bone and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. fish-meal is used now. The soya bean-meal (extracted) had a slight scouring effect on the birds. Three different makes were tried. The same troble was experienced when substituting soya bean-meal for meat and bone in the "tried out" mash.

The birds have now been on the experimental mash for a good few weeks. The change was made gradually, and no drop in the egg yield was experienced. The reason for making the change at this time of the year was purely to hasten the results, as if anything the mash, although balanced well, may tend to be stimulating for the spring months. If no trouble is experienced with shell-less eggs or double-yolked eggs, etc., it is fairly safe to say it will prove to be a very useful mash for the intensivist. There is already an improvement, not only in the yolk colour, but also the albumen is much firmer. I think it may possibly be that with this experimental mash, C.L.O. may not be necessary, and that the minerals could be halved. The large proportion of maize plus alfalfa-meal makes the mash a very fertile source of vitamin A. Sour separated milk is given, used in a wet mash, or a bucket three-quarters full of corn is covered with the separated milk and stood in the oven all night. It is advisable to bribe the wife before doing this! Separated milk is also sometimes given in troughs when it has gone to curd. I think the birds enjoy it most in this way, scooping it down very much after the manner of ducks.

It may be that an improvement in the total ration could be effected by giving equal parts of oats and split maize, plus a small daily feed of sprouted oats or barley. This winter, however, I have been too busy to sprout any oats.

GREEN FOOD AND YOLK COLOUR.

It is quite common knowledge that birds running on grass produce eggs of a very much better yolk colour than birds which do not have access to

(See on next page).

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Pills for Turkey chicks during their infancy to pull them through their infant ailments.

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2.

CHICK FEEDING UP TO DATE.

It is probable that more chicks are lost through digestive troubles than from any other cause, and the following points are worth noting.

No food should be given to young chicks during the first thirty-six hours after hatching. Even if left for forty-eight hours without food, chicks will suffer no harmful effects. Seeds that have indigestible husks, such as canaryseed, hemp-seed, linseed and millet, should never be fed whole to chicks. Such seeds, if used at all, should be cracked or hulled before feeding them to chickens, who are unable to crack them for hemselves. The digestive organs of young chickens are naturally delicate, and cooked or soft food should not be supplied in excessive quantities or at irregular intervals.

There are two accepted systems of feeding—the wet food and dry food systems. Whichever system is adopted, some fine grit and shell are essential, and plenty of clean water for drinking must always be provided.

THE WET FOOD SYSTEM.

Under this system, a considerable portion of the food is either cooked, scalded or mixed with water, separated milk or buttermilk. There is much in its favour, both for raising laying pullets and for producing table chickens. It is generally to be preferred when the natural system of rearing is resorted to. The cost of food in proportion to the weight gained is less than when the dry-food method is adopted, but this is probably counter-balanced by the increase of labour when the chickens are raised in large numbers.

The disadvantages of the wet-food system are that more labour is necessary in preparing the foods; care has to be taken to avoid sour food; and it demands greater judgment in feeding than the dry-food system.

Infertile eggs, made into a custard with a little milk and mixed with biscuit meal and chopped onion or young green stuff, make good food for the first three days, with coarse oatmeal given dry as an alternative feed on the second day. Although the egg is by no means essential, it is a valuable food when properly prepared, particularly the yolk. The white should be mixed with the yolk and the whole lightly cooked. In the absence of egg, biscuit meal or stale breadcrumbs soaked in sweet milk and squeezed dry may be fed.

After the third day a mixture consisting of 4 lb. middlings, 4 lb. biscut meal and 2 lb. ground oats or maize meal may be given for the wet mash. Rice boiled in milk or in stock may be fed on alternate days. Cracked wheat, or coarse oatmeal should be given as a dry feed twice daily. Where possible, separated or skim milk should be used for mixing meals, but if this is not available a small quantity of fresh lean meat, cooked and finely chopped, may be fed daily. Meat meal of good quality may be used as a substitute in the wet mash, in the proportion of 5 per cent.

Animal food should be provided for the early hatched chicks, although this is less necessary in the late spring and summer when chickens have a free run.

(Continued from previous page).

unlimited grass. This is due to a substance called carotin, named after the colouring matter in the carrot. This carotin is found in all green stuff; in this case the green chlorophyll disguises its colour. When poultry are consistently given food poor in carotin, the egg yolk colour is sure to suffer. Yellow carrots, which, by the way, poultry are not very keen on, greenstuff, and hay of a bright green colour are all fertile sources of carotin. Yellow maize also helps in the colour of the yolk, but this is due to some other substance. Green alfalfa-meal is also high in both vitamins A and B. Green coloured clover-meal is also the same, but it is quite a task to obtain green clover-meal. Alfalfa is rich in protein of the right kind; it balances the proteins of the cereals very satisfactorily. Clover does not contain quite so much protein, nor is it so rich in calcium or iron; alfalfa has an additional factor of being slightly laxative. No other feed helps so much in maintaining healthy vigorous intensive stock; which ensures also chicks with a real kick with them.

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CALCUTTA.

12.

The value of green food in the early part of the season and for young chicks cannot be over-estimated. This should be finely chopped and added to the moist food.

Up to this stage food should be given at regular times during the day at intervals of two to three hours.

From six weeks onwards the mash should consist of 4 lb. middlings, 2½ lb. maize meal, 2½ lb. Sussex ground oats or barley meal, 1 lb. meat meal or ½ lb. fish meal; 2 lb. biscuit meal or a flaked cereal food can take the place of an equal quantity of middlings. This mash, with occasional feeds of rice boiled in milk, or in water in which nettles have been previously boiled, may be given twice daily, with alternate feeds of cracked or small wheat. Kibbled maize can be mixed with the wheat if desired, in equal parts. In favourable weather, when natural food is plentiful, feeding can be reduced to three meals a day.

Household scraps should be used when available. Linseed meal in small quantity, boiled and mixed in the mash, is beneficial during the different stages of feathering. Dried milk may be used with advantage when fresh milk is not available. [As also buttermilk.—ED.]

Wet foods should be given on boards or in feeding troughs, and grain feed scattered in the scratching litter.

THE DRY FOOD SYSTEM.

This system effects a great saving of labour, and when dealing with chickens in large numbers it is more practicable and safer than the wet food system, especially in the hands of unskilled poultry-keepers. Since the food is always before them, there is no danger of the weaker chickens being insufficiently fed.

When dry feeding was first introduced the general practice was to feed cracked grain and seeds only. During the last few years, however, better results have been obtained by providing in addition meal in a dry state in pans or hoppers. The seeds fed in the litter ensure exercise, while the dry mash also occupies the chickens and supplies them with more and better food.

Dry bran or a dry mash mixture may be given to chicks fed upon the wet mash system and the number of wet feeds reduced, a saving of labour being effected and the chicks thriving on the combined system of feeding. Bran given dry is readily taken by chicks.

The methods of feeding are very simple. Grain is given as a first and final feed. The first feed should be of sufficient quantity to keep the chickens busily employed, during the day, searching for it in dry scratching litter. The dry mash is fed in hoppers, which remain open throughout the day, and are replenished as required.

The following rations are suitable as examples:—

Grain.	Dry Mash.
3 lb. wheat.	4 lb. bran.
3 lb. coarse oatmeal.	3 lb middlings.
	2 lb. Sussex ground oats.
1 lb. maize (cracked).	1 lb. maize meal
	½ lb. meat meal or dried milk.
	¼ lb. charcoal.

Seeds such as dari, millet, rice and canaryseed are not easily digested unless hulled or cracked. The presence of these seeds, and of cracked peas and lentils, which are quite unsuitable as food for Chicks, may give an attractive appearance to a mixture, but the proportion of wheat, goats and coarse oatmeal constitutes the chief value, and poultry-keepers are advised to use these grains only, rather than to purchase mixtures In bought mixtures of all kinds there is a tendency to incorporate materials of inferior quality.

Fish meal may be used in the dry mash in very small proportions, and as an alternative to dried milk or meat meal, but either of the latter is to be preferred unless an absolutely reliable sample of fish meal impregnated with cod-liver-oil is obtainable.

Ground charcoal may be added to the dry mash in the proportion of about 4 per cent. of the whole.

Fresh green food should be given, but this is less readily eaten by little chicks than when mixed

(*See on next page*).

IMPORTED THIS YEAR.

Light Sussex. Settings from Winner Harper Adams Trials. 1st Prize, England.
Rs. 20/- per dozen.

White Orpingtons. 1st Prize. From Rs. 30/- a Trio. Settings Rs. 16/- per dozen.

Cockerels from these two record strains Rs. 20/- each. (8 months old.)

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RED GABLES.

12 SHILLONG.

JERSEY BLACK GIANTS.

Eggs from acclimated imported prize birds, excellent layers of large brown eggs.

Rs. 30/- *per dozen.*

Pullets and Cockerels available.

Standard weights.

Cock 12 to 13 lbs. approx.
Hen 10 lbs. approx.

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11

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	Rs.	As.
Inheritance of Fecundity in Fowls ...	4	6
The Sussex Fowl	1	8
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The Modern Minorca	1	8
Incubation (Natural and Artificial) ...	1	8
The Racing Homer	1	8
Pigeon Lofts and Fittings ...	0	8
Moulting, Separating stock, Showing, etc., (Pigeons)	0	8
Breeding Poultry for Exhibition ...	0	8

Postage Free or V. P. P.

FROM THE EDITOR

INDIAN POULTRY GAZETTE.

Important Announcement.

WHITE LEGHORN EGGS FOR HATCHING.

My well-known strain of hens mated to a newly imported first-class Cock, whose dam's and sire's dam's records are 520/524 in 24 months respectively. Limited number of settings, Rs. 15/- per dozen eggs (15 sent, no replacements) packing and postage free.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

Mrs. O. B. LACEY,

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Eastern Bengal Railway.

5.

A. O. FODEN,

NARAYANGUNGE.

Orders are now being booked for this seasons matings.

White Leghorns.—Imported stock mated to progeny of imported stock winners at Calcutta.

1st Pen ... Rs. 18/- per sitting.
2nd „ ... Rs. 15/- „ „

White Runner Ducks.—Imported stock and 1st generation of imported stock mating.

1st Pen ... Rs. 15/- per sitting.
2nd „ ... Rs. 12/8/- „ „

The fertility of these ducks last year was 98%. I only keep a limited number—the best—so book early.

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Specialities:—

Rhode Island Reds, W. Leghorns and Chittagongs.

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IMPORTED PENS.

High Grade Utility Rhode Island Reds.

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CALCUTTA SHOW 1929.

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Packing and Postage Free.

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Black Minorcas. }

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New Laid eggs supplied daily in Calcutta.

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Breeder of Highest Pedigree Prolific Laying Exhibition & Utility Poultry.

White Leghorns:—Barrons, Padmans & Tancred 300 Egg Strain.

Rhode Island Reds:—Golden & American Utility, English & American Exhibition Strains

Eggs:—From General Pens (White Leghorns only) - Rs. 7/- dozen, Special Pens - Rs. 15/-, Extra Special Rs. 20/-, Super Special Rs. 25/- dozen.

Infertiles (if any) replaced free.

11

IMPORTED PENS.

WHITE LEGHORNS—300 egg Tancred strain.

RHODE ISLAND REDS—Iowa State College utility strain.

TURKEYS—First class Indian bred birds.

All laying stock is pedigreed and trap-nested.

Eggs Rs. 12/- per dozen, baby chicks, young stock at reasonable prices.

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10

GEORGE HOWARD,

Sperrin Poultry Farm,

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Breeder, exhibitor, Exporter of pedigree utility and exhibition poultry. Exports at our own risks and inclusive prices for live delivery Indian ports. Prices from £. 2 per bird.

Absolute satisfaction guaranteed, See further Breeder's Card. See also larger displayed advertisement in Gazette Year Book. Further announcements will appear periodically in this Gazette.

2

UNIQUE EXPORT GUARANTEE.

As your late Secretary and Editor and exporter since leaving India our reputation for square dealing is well known. But in future will export utility poultry on approval i.e. if not approved on arrival, send to Calcutta, Rangoon or All India Show for auction and if purchase price not realised we will refund difference. George Howard.

2

THE AZEEL—OR INDIAN GAME.

By "A Lover of the Beautiful".

The following article which has been taken from "Our Poultry" by Harrison Weir, may prove of interest to Game fanciers in India. The author, whose experience with all breeds and varieties of poultry was of life-long duration, writes of the breed as known to English breeders more than half a century ago.

"The very pink of perfection". *Goldsmith's She stoops to conquer.* This, as its name implies, is the true Indian fighting cock. It is the high-class Game fowl of India, and has been known as such ever since the Indian life of Lord Clive—the word "Azeel" indicating "true and noble". The breed is one of the oldest, and the pureness of blood and pedigree have been most carefully preserved for centuries on centuries of years. The origin of these warrior birds has been lost in the dim vistas of the past. It has long been kept as, and is, a Royal fowl in India, and treasured beyond expression as such, and is, of the highest value, it being almost impossible to procure specimens of the purest blood—the warriors of to-day—the descendants of such renowned in story.

Moorgah is the Hindoo for cock, while the Mohammedans call it Mooruh and Azeel Mooruh, which is "the exceeding noble cock" or "the cock that fights nobly".

As Game fowl they are "game". They are called so because they are emphatically known to be so, with a world-wide reputation as such; a reputation rightly and honourably won, their's by conquest. "Game" ages ago, and game to-day, not called so for commercial purposes, but for their stead-fast, fiery valour; not for their beauty, which is great; not for their strong, well-knit frames; not for dashing attack, vigour and strength, not for their varied loveliness of colour and beautiful intricate markings, nor their sturdy make, general contour, fierce eye, square wedge-shaped head, and powerful beak—no! Not for any, or all of these are they Azeel; Indian Game, but because they are the true, the high class, the blue blood of Indian bird warriors, the veriest Game of Game, rightful owners of the well-earned appellation; pure in blood and pure in reputation, theirs a world-wide fame.

They have been long known as all this and more. Those who have seen them in India—birds such as never reach our colder land—have told of their prowess, of their ungovernable, unwearying, unconquerable tenacity in battle; with them, as with our English Game of old, it has ever been Death of Victory. Such are the Indian Game, the Azeel, the true, the noble, the thoroughbred, the Game.

Sir John Astley, in his very interesting book "Fifty years of my Life," 1894, gives valuable information on many things, and so, respecting the Indian Game Fowl, he says of his brother that "when he came home he brought with him some of the higher type of Indian Game birds, and I was surprised the value set on those birds by the native sportsmen, and the trouble to procure and land them in this country; yet some of them had succumbed on the homeward journey. I noticed one black hen particularly, and upon asking if she was of a high class tribe, was assured she was the very top of the pedigree class, and that no money could buy her, in fact, he would have lost "caste" had he put a price on her in particular, when he had been offered £20 each for her eggs. "She never laid an egg in this country; but Sir John Astley states she returned to India, and laid on board ship, and he dryly adds "my readers will be satisfied that it would be very difficult to set a price on such a bird."

These Indian Game have a wider, fuller, rounder head than our English, and are shorter and broader in the back; the product of a cross from the two breeds sometimes turn out well, but are not to be depended upon to be like either—pure.

From the foregoing it will be seen how highly the natives of India value pedigree, and it is but a haphazard unwise proceeding the breeding without it; whilst with it even with the greatest care in the matching, disappointment only too often occurs; and yet it is saddening to hear some people, ignorant of Nature's laws, restlessly advocating a "cross," a "breed out" and "in," after which they can never know, nor others with the very least certainly, what can or will come of it. Such has been the case with the Azeel; in no cross has it been proved a success. The Azeel is "noble," then why stain the escutcheon?

(*Continued from previous page*).

in a wet mash. It may be finely chopped and fed in troughs, or suspended so that it can be picked off in small pieces. In the early stages green food is better chopped and given in a little bran. Onions, young greens, lettuces, clover, fine lawn clippings and dandelion leaves are amongst the best kinds of green food. Roots may be given for the chicks to pick at in the absence of green food.

A Combination of Both Methods.

While many of the most experienced chicken-rearers show a preference for the wet mash system, others use a combination of the two methods. This is becoming more general, and it is a frequent practice to start the young chicks upon the dry method and at the age of from seven to twenty-eight days to give one feed of wet mash daily from thence onwards, while continuing to give dry mash.

Another practice which can be generally recommended in conjunction with the wet mash system is to place hoppers of dry bran always before the chicks.

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Questions under this heading are answered free of charge on this page.
Letters should be addressed—BUFF ROCK,
C/o. The Hon. Editor, I. P. GAZETTE and marked "Query".
Where readers desire an individual reply they should enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a fee of As. -/8/- is charged.

Mrs. P. *Tantipara.*—I am under the impression that the trouble is due to improper feeding. As *you do not state in your letter what the daily menu is* I am at a loss to advise you the best method to adopt. Will you please write me again giving me your mash *proportions and if the birds are on free range,* what sort of range—grassy or sparse—and I will go into the subject fully and try to help you.

Mr. K. *Kurseong District.—There is no harm* in breeding from a five year old hen if she was a proved layer as a pullet and is mated to a young and vigourous male from a sound laying strain. I am afraid your trouble will be that when you want to hatch she will not be in lay and 5 y o hens as a rule *keep one waiting a long while to obtain sufficient eggs to put down.*

Mr. D. *Ballygunge.*—The house accomodation is hardly sufficiently roomy for the number you are housing in it. Its limit is 25 birds. (2) Sink the wire netting 1 feet below the ground and the height of the wiring round the run should be 6 feet. One inch mesh is best.

Mr. T. *Asansol.*—The size of the machine you suggest is a bit too small. With only one machine to work it is at the least 23 days between hatches *which will allow of a limit of seventy-five chicks* only if each time you get a 100% hatch which is the rarest of rare luck so I suggest you under estimate and allow a 50% hatch each time which then means you will require about a 75 egg capacity to fulfil requirements. (2) Hearson, Silver Hen, Mendip Gloucester. (3) Preferably where the direct sun rays do not strike at any *time of the day and free from* draught.

Mr. F. *Travancore.*—This breed is well known for its flesh bearing qualities but as a layer I do not think it will be a success in your district. It is likely to be difficult to breed and rear owing to not being a good doer in the hot months. I should suggest the Wyandotte or Orpington as more suitable.

Mrs. W. *Poona.*—The sample was quite sufficient. It is in my opinion *too fattening and* I find about 50% of it is Maize meal. In your next mixture get it made up as follows.—Maize meal 2 parts, Barley meal 2 parts, Bajra meal 2 parts, Fish meal 1 part, other items same as before.

Mr. N. A. *Calcutta.*—The Leghorn-Chittagong first cross will be best and as you are on the spot why not see what you buy before you buy it. Wait for the Calcutta show and look round for a good cockerel there. If you are in doubt the Honorary Show Secretary or Club Secretary or judges will I am sure be only too pleased to help you make a choice *if you have any difficulty in selection.* In your second question I advise you not to be too ambitious. Six to eight is quite sufficient.

Mr. S. *Md. Sh. Mission.*—The length of time depends on the breeding stock to a great extent but for machine hatching I should suggest not longer than 7 days and for natural incubation 10 to 12 days. (2) The eggs should be under 7 days old when they reach you so after a stand of 6 to 8 hours could be machine hatched though if you have the facilities it is better to use hens. Four would be quite enough. (3) It is no trouble and I will be only too pleased if I can help you to establish a paying sideline to your Mission. Go slow and don't be afraid to ask even if it does sound silly as we can all learn from each other.

Mr. H. *Budge Budge.*—If you intend to feed *solely by this method you can start off as early* as one week old varying the formula accordingly as the youngsters grow. For the first week feed on oatmeal groats, bread soaked in milk and dried off with oatmeal or biscuit meal and or ata. Feed every 2 hours. If at the end of the first week you go right on to a mash you must watch they eat it or *if the change is too sudden help them out with* a little of what they have been used to or in other words wean them to the mash.

Mr. G. *Patna.*—I am sorry I cannot give you the information you ask for as this is not an advertisement page. Look through breeder's cards and general advertisements and I am sure you will be satisfied.

Mr. L. *Jammu.*—Windolite is an excellent glass substitute but I am afraid you will find it come very expensive if you intend to build it into the house as you suggest. Why not only take out a Strip on either side of the roof about 3 feet wide and 10 feet long and fit Windolite into this, it will be sufficient.

Mr. S. *Kulladakurichi.*—Try the U. P. P. A., or look through 'breeder cards' in the Gazette.

There are a shortage of breeders of both these in India. A good opening for someone.

Mr. B. *Fyzabad.*—I regret *I know of no addresses in the* countries you ask about that I could guarantee.

I suggest you get in touch with Geo. Howard who advertises in the Gazette as you will find the British bird every bit as good.

In any case dont expect 300 from that breed *in this country* as I am afraid you will be a bit disapointed.

You might get in touch with Mr. Spellissy, 71, Cantonments, Cawnpore, who has this breed imported from England.

Postal Queries have been sent to the following :—Mrs. Harington, Mr. Bell, Mr. Deefholts, Mr. Craig, Mr. Syed, Rohman and Mr. Haddow.

A friend of mine had some very high-class Indian Game, long in pedigree, from Madras, in colour black and some soft blue, and yellow in the shanks; and although he was a fairly good ordinary breeder of poultry, by unscientific matching he not only lost the beautiful purity of feather colouring, but he also found that it was most difficut, in fact, almost impossible, to retain the orange yellow of the shanks and feet, they would come stained. If this were so in the pure breed, what would have had to contend with had he crossed "out" and "in"?

In colour the Azeel is variable, but always more or less beautiful: like most of the Indian domestic poultry or pigeons there is a finished, refined, almost poetic, touch about the cocks and hens, the spangling tints being generally brightly and charmingly arranged, widely different to any European breed. In habit they are peculair; being wonderful scrapers or scratchers, almost burying themselves in the deep holes so made in their runs. Mine would most industriously turn over, to a great depth, all the available ground continually; and were scarcely contented, if ever so, unless they were digging or delving, their extra strong limbs and feet making the process a light matter of exercise, though presumably they were in search of insect life. Again, though fierce in combat to a remarkable degree, both sexes were unusually tame, allowing themselves to be caught up and put down as desirable at my will or pleasure; they would feed from my hand and perch on my shoulder in the most trustful way imaginable, which rendered them enjoyable pets to keep.

As a table fowl it is of wonderful shape, the breast being a counterpart of the red grouse, or between that and the partridge, plump, broad, full and rounded: the skin is thin, and the flesh very fine in grain and close, but rather dry and somewhat hard, for the reason that it will not put fat on the breast, nor between the layers of the muscles, though it does somewhat about the thighs and legs; the bird, however, fattens inwardly. One cock that I had was very fleshy, particularly so on the breast, though apparently lean, but it died from apoplexy, when, on examination, the inside was found to be—to use a common expression—" one mass of fat ". If the breed could be got to assimilate more fat on the breast, it would be one of the best table fowls that we have. Grouse-breasted to a degree, it, like the grouse, is thin—lean.

What power there is in the short, thick, bony, straight shanks, covered as they are with stout strong thick-made toes, horn tipped with stout curvicular nails, all-powerful for attack, defence or scraping: the thighs hard and muscular, well apart, and sparsely feathered; the head broad and thick; beak strong, stout, and well set on, slightly curving from a triple pea comb to the point; eyes deep set, yet in themselves bold and prominent, pearl coloured, pink cornered; face glowing, purplish red slightly beset at the sides with bristles; deaf or earlobe small and hard; wattles small, both red; point of breast naked and red: shoulders broad, stern narrow, making the body almost triangular; wings very strong well out at the butts or shoulders, carried level, showing the big first joint bare; neck round, powerful and medium length, if anything rather short than long, rising curved or bending in the elevation; tail carried low, flat, the feathers narrow and hard, with slender sickle feathers, thin and sharp in point, but wiry in substance; tail covert fine, evenly laid on, close, firm, and compact—that of the hen a little short, but not too much so, carried low, and tapering; all the plumage hard, almost scaly, yet feathery, but devoid of fluff, body heavy for its size, well-boned, close in texture, and strong; the carriage somewhat upright, but runs with a stooping gait; general appearance combative and dauntless, moving quickly and fearlessly.

Fortunately there is no standard for colour, nor should there be; so many of our best breeds being more or less sacrificed to a slavish craving for certain colours to the exclusion of others, often quite as beautiful, and in the opinion of many, more so. The so-called coloured Dorking is a notable example of this, the dark and silver greys now only obtaining notice, whilst the black-breastad reds, the golds, the spangles and the speckles are entirely neglected; therefore well is it for a breed that is not tied to colour as a point for or against.

In this matter the Azeels are pre-eminently beautiful, the formation of the feathers lending an additional charm to the various blendings. The White, with an undertint of lilac grey, yellow shanks and beak, and silvery eye, being one amongst the most approved. The black has its admires, and what a black it is? How brilliant! Rich bronzy and purplish, with an iridescent emerald green, flashing to every movement of the bird. Then the self-coloured blood reds, with black hackles, and these with a delicate black lacing, now claimed as a property of an alien variety of fowl. Spangles and splashes, and almond tinted tans almost complete, but do not exhaust the list of the varied featherings of these Rajah treasured fowls.

"Profitable poultry" they are not; as charming and delightful pets or hobbies they have no peer. True, on account of their courage, they are somewhat difficult to keep, the hens even having their-likes and dislikes mostly the latter; as a consequence, these end sometimes in the death of one or the other, the temporary maiming or disfiguration of both, such being especially the case of a stranger. This may be partially remedied by couping the new-comer within sight of the other fowls for a few days.

They are by no means prolific breeders, laying but few eggs as a rule, but there is much difference in this respect; they are good and close sitters, excellent mothers, defending their little ones with the utmost audacity and fearlessness. The chickens require some attention for the first week or two, after which they shift for themselves in the same way as our English Game fowl, they grow slowly, feather well, but require a dry situation well-protected from cold winds. The eggs are small, of a dull light brown, and the shells are generally thick.

A cock of this breed, mated with a lightly-feathered shanked Cochin hen or hens, will produce some excellent table fows, very hardy, and easily fattened, the flesh thereby being rendered rich and delicious in flavour.

Though they cannot be said to be very hardy, still in some localities and on certain soils they thrive; and when such is the case, they prove not only an interesting, but being so different in most cases from others, they are a very enjoyable breed to keep, and a lovely adjunct to the ordinary poultry-yards.